



OHIO LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF OHIO

\$4/Year

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1977

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

by Bob Lehman

As I look out over the parking lot where people are digging out from under two feet of snow and trying to start their cars in below-zero temperatures, across the interstate strewn with abandoned cars, to the snow- and treelimb-covered homes of Mayfield Heights, I am reminded of...petition time! That happy time every other year, from November to March, when libertarians across the state band together to collect signatures, so that next fall there will be an election campaign to work on. Our next major petition drive is only nine months away. If any female libertarians are planning to get pregnant, you'd better do it now, so you'll be ready to go when petition season starts.

To get the LP on the Ohio ballot for the 1978 elections will require about 40,000 valid signatures (1% of the people who voted in 1976). To get an independent candidate for governor on the ballot will require 5000 valid signatures, but then a separate petition drive would be needed for each congressional candidate, requiring signatures of 1% of the voters in the congressional district. In 1974 and 1976 the LPO was not organizationally strong enough to attempt ballot status for more than one independent candidate: Harroff for Senate in 1974 and MacBride for President in 1976.

If the LP is to become a major party, we must gain permanent ballot status in Ohio. This will require not only 40,000 valid signatures, but also 5% of the vote in a statewide race to stay on the ballot. By getting the LP on the ballot, we can run more candidates for congress and the state legislature, get more publicity, and have greater name recognition going into the 1980 elections. Even if we don't get 5% of the vote, petitioning in 1980 will be made easier for having been on the ballot in 1978.

But to get the LP on the ballot in 1978 we'll need a lot more petition circulators than we had last year. This is why it's extremely important to establish YLA chapters on the major campuses in Ohio this year. The college kids are who will be doing most of the petitioning next winter. Another source for petition circulators is the Citizens for Good Schools. LPO organizers in each county should work with and get to know these people who are circulating petitions to abolish the state school board. Running for local office is a good way to attract workers and build ward and precinct organizations. Speakers bureaus and local study groups can be an effective means of educating and recruiting curious and interested people, and bringing them into the libertarian fold.

Historically, political parties have seen their greatest growth in the year following a presidential election. If we work at it, we can become strong enough by November to go for permanent ballot status in Ohio.

EDITOR'S NOTES

1. For those who haven't seen the final election results yet, they were: Roger MacBride 183,187. Although Roger came in fourth in the country, this establishes the LP as the third-ranking national political party. Roger received nearly six percent of the vote in Alaska--the highest percentage for any non-Republicratic candidate--and received 56,000 in California. Projecting this growth rate forward another four years indicates that by 1980 we should get six to ten million votes (and be on the ballot in 512 states).

Other encouraging notes: In Arizona, the LP has qualified for permanent ballot status after Chairperson Helen Stevens received 15% of the vote for state representative. Many other Libertarian candidates received over 15% of the vote in states all across the country, including Michigan, Nevada, Idaho, and Oklahoma.

2. The LPO wants to field a strong slate of candidates for local office in 1977. Our goal is not only to gain campaigning experience and educate voters, but also to elect candidates where they can begin the long-overdue reforms needed in local governments. I urge all libertarians to begin right now to attend meetings of local governments--townships, county commissioners, school boards, etc.--to gain experience in local civic matters. Do this even if you don't plan to run for office; when you find out what's really happening, you may change your mind.
3. With spring just around the corner, it's time once again for that great libertarian traditional holiday--National Tax Protest day in April. This is one of the best occasions that libertarians have for publicity--television news reporters (who have to file income tax too) have always given us good coverage. It's not too early now to start planning a protest. And if you don't have a Federal Building in your town to picket, don't worry--by April, Gentleman Jimmy may have built you one.
4. The Ohio MacBride for President Committee is still in debt as a result of the campaign. This debt must be cleared up before the committee goes out of existence Feb. 28. You can make a contribution of up to \$50 and deduct half of it from your 1977 income tax. Consider it as a "Well Done" to those who worked so hard organizing the campaign. Send contributions to the Ohio MacBride for President Committee, 908 Westbury Lane South, Columbus, Ohio 43228.
5. Plan on attending the National LP Convention in San Francisco at the end of July. This promises to be the biggest and best LP gathering ever. If you can't wait that long, there will be a mini-conference of libertarians in Boston April 15-17. If it is as good as the reports we've had of the recent Miami conference, it will be well worth attending. It's a remarkable experience, reports Bob DeBrosse, to be in a room with 200 people and know that not one of them wants to control you in any way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A new radio show, The Libertarian, is being syndicated in Ohio. The commentator is LPO member Mark Kaufman. The first three shows, already taped, are:

FCC 1, First Amendment 0
The Perfect Counterfeit
Public Schooling vs Education

Check with your local radio stations for times. Currently about 17 stations are airing the program.

State chairman Bob Lehman has been active in spreading the libertarian word recently. In December he appeared on guest editorials on two Cleveland television stations blasting the Swine Flu Snafu. In January he spoke to the Cleveland Jaycees on the free economy.

The following local LP meetings have been scheduled:

Mayfield Heights Libertarian Club: Tuesday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m., at Marsol Towers, Bldg. 5 Party Room. Contact Bob Lehman at (216) 442-8375.

Lake-Geauga County Libertarian Club: Sunday, March 6, 2:00 p.m., at 11305 Chardon Rd., Chardon. Contact Roy Smith (216) 285-9745.

Columbiana-Mahoning County Libertarian Club: Saturday, Feb. 12, 2:00 p.m., at the Ohio Edison Co., 435 E. State St., Salem. Contact Bill Fieldhouse (216) 337-6469.

Cuyahoga County LP and Citizens for Good Schools: Sunday, Feb. 26, 12:00 noon, at the Sheraton Cleveland Hotel, Public Square.

And don't forget the State Execom meeting Sunday, February 20, at 1:00 p.m., at the clubhouse of Westbury Village, Columbus. As always these meetings are open to all. To get there, take the West Broad Street exit from I-270, go west about two miles, turn left on Morton Street (Sohio station on the corner) and look for Westbury Village on the left. The clubhouse is on Westbury Drive.

Following the meeting there will be a pot-luck dinner at the same location, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Bob Lehman will be the featured speaker.

A reminder: with the new year, many LPO memberships have expired. If you haven't renewed yours yet, you can use the handy form provided elsewhere in this paper. We would appreciate renewals before the Feb. 20 Execom meeting so that we can do our budget planning for the year.

Linda Bunyan has purchased the tape, "How to Communicate Political Ideas," by Nathaniel Branden. This is a recording of his speech delivered at the National Convention last September. It is a witty, informative talk, Branden at his best. It would be a good tape to include in programs and meetings around the state. The tips on communication would benefit both old and new members. She would be glad to lend this tape to any libertarian in the state, with the only condition being that it be returned promptly. Contact her at 77 Davenport Avenue, Akron, 44312, or 216-784-3571.

From the Piqua Daily Call:

Letters. . .

Government creates gas woes

To the Editor:

A recent television editorial lamented the current natural gas shortage, and exhorted residential users to lower thermostats even further lest they, too, be subject to a curtailment of the gas supply available to them. As usual, the facts regarding the true nature of the so-called energy crisis remain shrouded behind a veil of ignorance. Let us proceed to lift that veil.

Back in the 1930's politicians got the idea the people were entitled to energy at prices even lower than the competitive marketplace provided. Washington decided to make natural gas a "bargain fuel" by forcing price controls on gas producers. The immediate effect on consumers indeed seemed "positive" - just as the government intended.

But the long-term effects on all groups were negative. Artificially-lowered prices increased the demand for natural gas but made gas profits shrink. This reduced capital available for exploring and developing new gas fields. Understandably, consumption of gas has exceeded new discoveries for the past seven years. At this rate, we will soon have no natural gas at all, while sizable reserves remain in the ground.

Meanwhile, to compete with price-controlled gas, the coal industry had to keep its prices artificially low. Thus it did not have enough capital to modernize old mines and open new ones. The result: despite the fact that coal is the world's most abundant fuel, and America owns half the known

supply, we are now producing only 630 millions tons per year - the same as 20 years ago!

Again, our government has long interfered in the domestic oil industry through regulatory interference, high taxes, inadequate depreciation allowances, and price controls. This made it more profitable for American oil producers to develop petroleum resources abroad. (That is why they built the Mideast oil facilities later expropriated by the Arab nations, who formed the cartel that tripled oil prices.)

Control of domestic oil prices made the number of new American wells decline drastically, as costs went up and oil prices remained frozen. Thus domestic oil production has dropped since 1970; and continued to go down, even after the Arabs jacked up prices.

Other government interventions have shockingly delayed completion of the Alaskan pipeline and building of nuclear energy facilities.

In short, controls breed shortages. That is an economic fact of life which cannot be circumvented by government edict. The libertarian solution to our energy problem is a simple one. We must launch a massive program of deregulating America's energy industry. We must remove the shackles that bind the free market, in order to provide abundant energy at reasonable prices.

Yours for Liberty,
Robert L. DeBrosse
922 Boone St.
Piqua

Deja Vu Department

Winter had come early, in the last days of November. People said that it was the hardest winter on record and that no one could be blamed for the unusual severity of the snowstorms. They did not care to remember that there had been a time when snowstorms did not sweep, unresisted, down unlighted roads and upon unheated houses, did not stop the movement of trains, did not leave a wake of corpses counted by the hundreds.

-- Ayn Rand, Atlas Shrugged

NOTICE

Has your LPO membership expired? Have you perhaps never joined? If so, you will not continue to receive this exciting, stimulating, thought-provoking example of yellow journalism. Unless, that is, you fill out one of the forms below.

 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Send with \$4.00 to John DeJager, 11483 Village Brooke, #325, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45242. Make payable to Libertarian Party of Ohio.

 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ COUNTY _____
 ADDRESS _____ PHONE () _____
 CITY _____ BIRTHDATE _____
 BUSINESS _____ PHONE () _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature _____	Date _____
Return this form with check payable to the Libertarian Party of Ohio to: Libertarian Party of Ohio 77 Davenport Ave. Akron, Ohio 44312	<input type="checkbox"/> Activist member \$6.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining member \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting member \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Life member \$100.00

 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Activist \$6.00
ADDRESS _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$15.00
STATE _____ ZIP _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$25.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$100.00

Make check payable to Libertarian Party of Ohio and mail to LPO, 77 Davenport Avenue, Akron, OH 44312.

Deadline for next issue: March 31

David P. Nolan
15063 E. Stanford Ave.
Denver, CO 80232

FIRST CLASS



J. DeJager
11783 Village Brooke, #325
Cincinnati, OH 45242



REGIONAL CHAIRPERSONS:

Northeast---Bob Lehman, 6509 Marsol Rd., #718, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124
(216) 442-8375

Northwest---John Rako, 3315 Valleston Pkwy, #1, Toledo 43607

Southwest---Randy Cesco, 9264 Cactus Lane, Loveland 45140 (513) 683-8063

Central-----Jim Higgins, 908 Westbury Lane S., Columbus 43228 (614) 878-2625

"Economics is extremely useful as a form of employment for economists."

---John Kenneth Galbraith